CAWP

Fact Sheet

Center for the American Woman and Politics
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STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE WOMEN 1990

In 1990, women hold **46**, or **13.9%**, of the 330 statewide elective executive offices across the country.[1] Among these women, **34** are Democrats, **11** are Republicans, and **1** was elected in a nonpartisan race. The 46 officials serve in 32 states and include: 3 governors, 4 lieutenant governors, 11 secretaries of state, 10 state treasurers, 2 attorneys general,[2] 6 auditors, 4 superintendents of public instruction, 1 commissioner of education, 1 commissioner of labor, 1 commissioner of agriculture, 1 tax commissioner, 1 corporation commissioner, and 1 public utilities commissioner.

To date, women have been elected statewide to executive offices in 40 of the nation's 50 states. In Maine, New Hampshire, and New Jersey, the governor is the only executive elected statewide, and a woman has never served as governor in any of these three states. The other seven states where women have never been elected statewide to executive posts are: Alaska, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, Utah, and West Virginia.

GOVERNORS

Three women serve as **governors** in 1990.

Madeleine Kunin, a Vermont Democrat, was elected in 1984 and re-elected in 1986 and 1988. Kunin is the first woman governor elected to serve three terms. She served as lieutenant governor from 1979 to 1982 and in the Vermont House of Representatives from 1973 to 1979.

Rose Mofford, an Arizona Democrat, became governor in April of 1988 following the impeachment and conviction by the legislature of Governor Evan Mecham (R). Mofford served as secretary of state of Arizona from 1977 to 1988; she was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1977 and was subsequently elected in 1978, 1982, and 1986.

Kay Orr, a Nebraska Republican, was elected in 1986. Orr is the first Republican woman governor in the nation and the only woman to have run against another woman for a gubernatorial position. Orr served as Nebraska's state treasurer from 1981 to 1987; she was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1981 and was subsequently elected in 1982.

Kunin, Mofford, and Orr bring to 9 (8 Democrats and 1 Republican) the total number of women ever to serve as governors.

The first woman governor was **Nellie Taylor Ross** (D) of Wyoming. Elected to replace her deceased husband, Ross served from 1925 to 1927. **Miriam "Ma" Ferguson** (D), inaugurated as governor of Texas fifteen days after Ross' Wyoming inauguration, served from 1925 to 1927 and again from 1933 to 1935. Both **Lurleen Wallace** (D) of Alabama, who served from 1967 to 1968, and Ferguson were elected as surrogates for their husbands who could not run for re-election. **Ella Grasso** (D) of Connecticut was the first woman governor elected in her own right. She was elected in 1974 and re-elected to a second four-year term in 1978; Grasso stepped down for health reasons in December of 1980. **Dixy Lee Ray** (D), elected in 1976, served as governor of Washington from 1977 to 1981. **Martha Layne Collins** (D) of Kentucky was elected in 1983 and served from 1984 through 1987.

Of the 9 women who have served as governors, 5 were elected in their own right: Grasso, Ray, Collins, Kunin, and Orr. The largest number to serve simultaneously is 3; this occurred in 1987 (Collins, Kunin, Orr) and from 1988-1990 (Kunin, Mofford, Orr).

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[1]These figures do not include: officials appointed to state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education.

[2]In Conneticut the attorney general is elected statewide; these figures include Clarine Riddle (D-CT) who was appointed to fill a vacancy in January 1989.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

Four women serve as lieutenant governors in 1990 among the 42 states with such positions. They are:

Martha Griffiths (D-MI), elected in 1982, re-elected in 1986;
Marlene Johnson (DFL-MN), elected in 1982, re-elected in 1986;
Evelyn Murphy (D-MA), elected in 1986;
Jo Ann Zimmerman (D-IA), elected in 1986.

To date, 17 women have served as lieutenant governors; 15 (14 Democrats, 1 Republican) were elected and 2 (1 Democrat, 1 Republican)[1] were appointed to fill vacancies.

The first woman elected lieutenant governor was **Consuelo Bailey**, a Vermont Republican. Elected in 1954, she served from 1955 to 1957. Bailey previously served as speaker of the state House of Representatives; thus, as lieutenant governor, she became the only woman in the country to have presided over both chambers of a state legislature.[1] In addition to Bailey and those now serving, the other elected women lieutenant governors, all of whom have served since 1975, were: **Martha Layne Collins** (D-KY), **Nancy Dick** (D-CO), **Evelyn Gandy** (D-MS), **Jean King** (D-HI), **Mary Anne Krupsak** (D-NY), **Madeleine Kunin** (D-VT), **Ruth Meiers** (D-ND), **Nancy Stevenson** (D-SC), Thelma Stovall (D-KY), and **Harriet Woods** (D-MO). The 2 appointed women lieutenant governors were: **Matilda Wilson** (R-MI), who served in 1940; and **Maude Frazier** (D-NV) who served in 1962.[1]

ADDITIONAL WOMEN IN STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

SECRETARY OF STATE - 11

State	Name	Party
CA	March Fong Eu	D
CO	Natalie Meyer	R
CT	Julia Tashjian	D
IA	Elaine Baxter	D
MN	Joan Growe	DFL
NV	Frankie Sue Del Papa	D
NM	Rebecca Vigil-Giron	D
OR	Barbara Roberts	D
RI	Kathleen Connell	D
SD	Joyce Hazeltine	R
WY	Kathy Karpan	D

In addition, 4 women serve as appointed secretaries of state: Joan Haberle (D-NJ), Gail Shaffer (D-NY), Hannah Atkins (D-OK), Pamela Womack (D-VA).

STATE TREASURER - 10

State	Name	Party
AR	Jimmie Lou Fisher	D
CO	Gail Schoettler	D
DE	Janet Rzewnicki	R
ID	Lydia Justice Edwards	R
IN	Marjorie O'Laughlin	R
KS	Joan Finney	D
LA	Mary Landrieu	D
OH	Mary Ellen Withrow	D
PA	Catherine Baker Knoll	D
TX	Ann Richards	D

In addition, Lucille Maurer (D-MD) and Georgie Thomas (R-NH) were elected treasurers by their state legislatures.

ATTORNEY GENERAL - 2

State	Name	Party
CT	Clarine Nardie Riddle	D*
VA	Mary Sue Terry	D

*Appointed to fill a vacancy.

STATE AUDITOR - 6

State	Name	Party
AL	Jan Cook	D
AR	Julia Hughes Jones	D
IN	Ann DeVore	R
MO	Margaret Kelly	R
MT	Andrea Bennett*	R
PA	Barbara Hafer	R

*MT auditor also serves as insurance commissioner.

TAX COMMISSIONER - 1

State	Name	Party
ND	M.K. Heidi Heitkamp	D

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION - 1

State	Name	Party
FL	Betty Castor	D

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - 4

State	Name	Party
AZ	C. Diane Bishop	D
MT	Nancy Keenan	D
WA	Judith Billings	NP*
WY	Lynn Simons	D

*Election was nonpartisan.

COMMISSIONER OF LABOR - 1

State	Name	Party
OR	Mary Roberts	D

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE - 1

State	Name	Party
ND	Sarah Vogel	D

CORPORATION COMMISSIONER - 1

State	Name	Party
AZ	Marcia Weeks	D

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER - 1

State	Name	Party
SD	Laska Schoenfelder	R

Women in American Politics, Martin Gruberg (Oshkosh, Wisconsin: Academia Press, 1968).

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